AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-18 (Cancelled)

19. (Previously Presented) A method of providing battery status information, the method comprising:

placing a DC voltage on a pair of wires; and

simultaneously superimposing a plurality of tones on the DC voltage on the pair of wires, each tone representing a different battery status condition of a same battery.

20. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 19 and further comprising detecting the plurality of tones, and determining a battery status from the plurality of tones.

Claims 21-26 (Cancelled)

27. (Previously Presented) A method of providing battery status information, the method comprising:

placing a DC voltage on a pair of wires; and

simultaneously superimposing a plurality of tones on the DC voltage on the pair of wires, each tone representing a different battery status condition of a single battery.

28. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 27 and further comprising detecting the plurality of tones, and determining a battery status from the plurality of tones.

Claims 29-30 (Cancelled)

31. (New) A power supply module comprising:

a power supply circuit connected to receive an AC voltage, convert the AC voltage into a first DC power supply voltage, and place the first DC power supply voltage on a power supply node; and

a battery status circuit connected to simultaneously place a plurality of tones on the power supply node that represent a status of a battery.

32. (New) The power supply module of claim 31 and further comprising a high pass filter connected between the power supply node and the battery status circuit, the high pass filter being an open to a DC voltage.

33. (New) The power supply module of claim 32 and further comprising a first low pass filter connected between the power supply node and the power supply circuit, the first low pass filter being a short to a DC voltage.

34. (New) The power supply module of claim 33 and further comprising a twisted-pair cable that has a plurality of pairs of wires, the power supply node being connected to one pair of wires of the plurality of pairs of wires.

35. (New) The power supply module of claim 33 and further comprising an uninterruptible power supply, the power supply circuit being connected to receive the AC voltage from the uninterruptible power supply, the battery status circuit being connected to a status port of the uninterruptible power supply to receive a battery status message.

36. (New) The power supply module of claim 33 and further comprising:

a voltage sensor to detect a magnitude of the first DC power supply voltage on the power supply node; and

a battery circuit connected to the voltage sensor to place a second DC power supply voltage on the power supply node when the voltage sensor indicates that the magnitude of the first DC power supply voltage on the power supply node has fallen below a predefined value so that a substantially constant power supply voltage is continuously present on the power supply node until the battery circuit can no longer place the second DC power supply voltage on the power supply node, the second DC power supply voltage having a substantially constant magnitude for an emergency period of time.

37. (New) The power supply module of claim 36 and further comprising a second low pass filter connected between the voltage sensor and the battery status circuit, and between the battery circuit and the battery status circuit, the second low pass filter being a short to a DC voltage.

38. (New) The power supply module of claim 37 wherein the battery circuit includes:

a battery; and

a battery controller connected to the battery and the battery status circuit, the battery controller to determine the status of the battery, and output the status of the battery to the battery status circuit.

39. (New) A power supply module comprising:

a power supply circuit connected to receive an AC voltage, convert the AC voltage into a DC power supply voltage, and place the DC power supply voltage on a power supply node;

a voltage sensor to detect a magnitude of the DC power supply voltage on the power supply node; and

a battery status circuit connected to simultaneously receive a plurality of tones from the power supply node that represent a status of a battery.

40. (New) The power supply module of claim 39 and further comprising a high pass filter connected between the power supply node and the battery status circuit, the high pass filter being an open to a DC voltage.

41. (New) The power supply module of claim 40 and further comprising a low pass filter connected between the power supply node and the voltage sensor, the low pass filter being a short to a DC voltage.

42. (New) The power supply module of claim 41 wherein the battery status circuit outputs a battery status message that represents a battery status as indicated by the plurality of tones, each tone representing a different battery status condition of a same battery.